

CLAIMS

1. An applicator comprising an applicator element (2) and being characterized by the fact that said applicator element comprises:

- 5 · at least two walls (8) forming between them a cavity (6) suitable for retaining the substance;
 · at least one slot (3) extending along a longitudinal axis (Y) and through which the substance contained in said cavity can be dispensed in order to be
10 applied; and
 · at least one opening (10) whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening possessing at least one portion of width (ℓ_2) in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than the width (ℓ_1) of the slot
15 in the same plane.

2. An applicator according to the preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) is situated between the two walls (8).

- 20 3. An applicator according to either preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the walls (8) present an elongate shape with a longitudinal axis that is substantially parallel to the axis (Y) of the slot.

- 25 4. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) is entirely separate from the opening (10).

- 30 5. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) is situated substantially opposite from the opening (10).

- 35 6. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the cross-section of the applicator element presents a shape that is substantially V-shaped, C-shaped, U-shaped, or W-shaped, at least one

slot (7) opening out in the bottom of a concave portion of the V-, C-, U-, or W-shape as the case may be.

7. An applicator according to the preceding claim, the
5 walls (8) defining a U-shaped cross-section, the applicator being characterized by the fact that the slot (7) is formed between two substantially parallel rims (12) connected to the bottom of the U-shape.
- 10 8. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized by the fact that the applicator element presents at least two substantially parallel slots (7).
9. An applicator according to the preceding claim, the
15 two walls (8) defining a W-shaped cross-section, the applicator being characterized by the fact that the two slots (7) open out in the bottoms of the two concave portions of the W-shape.
- 20 10. An applicator according to claim 8, the two walls (8) defining a V-shaped cross-section, the applicator being characterized by the fact that the two slots open out on either side of the bottom (19) of the concave portion of the V-shape.
- 25 11. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) extends in a substantially rectilinear direction.
- 30 12. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) extends along a curve, in particular a curve that is concave or convex.
- 35 13. An applicator according to the preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the curve is substantially a portion of a circle or of an ellipse.

14. An applicator according to claim 12, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) extends along an undulating curve.

5 15. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) presents edges of substantially linear shape.

10 16. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized by the fact that the slot (7) presents serrated edges.

15 17. An applicator according to the preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the edges of the slot (7) comprise two rows of teeth (23).

20 18. An applicator according to the preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the respective teeth (23) of said rows are in register with one another.

19. An applicator according to claim 17, characterized by the fact that the respective teeth (23) of said rows are disposed in a staggered configuration.

25 20. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the slot is not interrupted along its entire length.

30 21. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 19, characterized by the fact that the slot is interrupted by the presence of at least one bridge of material (25) interconnecting the two walls (8).

35 22. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the opening (10) is not interrupted.

23. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 21, characterized by the fact that the opening is interrupted by the presence of at least one bridge of material (27) interconnecting the two walls (8).

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24. An applicator according to any preceding claim and including a stem (3), the applicator being characterized by the fact that the slot (7) extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction (X) of the stem.

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25. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 23 and including a stem (3), the applicator being characterized by the fact that the slot (7) extends substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal

15 direction (X) of the stem.

26. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the applicator element (2) is flocked, at least in part.

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27. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the walls (8) are elastically deformable.

25 28. An applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized by the fact that the walls (8) are made of a rigid material.

29. An applicator according to any preceding claim, characterized by the fact that the applicator element is made out of at least one of the following materials: a thermoplastic or thermosetting material; elastomer; glass; wood; or metal.

30 30. A packaging and applicator device for a substance, in particular a cosmetic and/or a care product, the device comprising:

- a receptacle containing a substance for application; and
- an applicator according to any preceding claim.

- 5 31. A device according to the preceding claim,
characterized by the fact that the applicator is
releasably secured to the receptacle.
- 10 32. A device according to the preceding claim,
characterized by the fact that the applicator is arranged
to be capable of closing the receptacle in leaktight
manner.
- 15 33. A device according to either one of the two preceding
claims, characterized by the fact that it includes a
wiper.
- 20 34. A device according to the preceding claim,
characterized by the fact that the wiper comprises a
block of foam.
- 25 35. A device according to claim 30, characterized by the
fact that the applicator is permanently fixed to the
receptacle and includes an internal channel (77) enabling
the substance contained in the receptacle to flow into
the cavity (6) of the applicator element (2).
- 30 36. The use of an applicator as defined in any one of
claims 1 to 29 for applying the substance to the body or
the face, in particular to the nails, the eyelashes or
eyebrows, the skin, or the lips.